

and thus assurance that justice will not be denied through its delay as well as inadequate remedies, have made reform necessary long before the Bush-appointed NLRB began to work its mischief. The newly elected Democratic-led Congress should address labor-law reform.

Notwithstanding the subordinate role the law plays in the workplace malaise, respect for the law and its function are an important element in the democratic process.

This time around, however, the discussion must take into account a need for more sweeping changes which affect the agency itself. More formidable than one-sided statutory interpretations is a lack of production of cases. Ironically, as the number of cases filed with the NLRB has dropped, in part because unions lost confidence in its rulings, the resolution of those cases remaining declined. The reason for NLRB lethargy is not only Bush's hostility to collective bargaining, but also the appointment process: the past decade and a half has witnessed the emergence of partisan appointees and a greater reliance on Washington insiders from Capitol Hill, who, having no place to return, cling to office while they fail to decide cases which, they fear, will interfere with their re-appointment process.

The consequence of this is a politicization of decision-making, an ever-deeper NLRB ideological divide and the unwillingness of Congress to approve any presidential nominees without "batching" the appointments, i.e. providing for at least two appointments at a time, one with the blessing of labor, the other with the blessing of business. This means no more appointments like those made in labor law's early and halcyon days of the 1940s and '50s, when genuine impartial neutrals were appointed by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

One answer to the production problem and its denial of the prompt relief to which both workers and employers are entitled is longer terms and a prohibition against reappointment. The number of board members should be reduced to three members rather than five. This year, the board is at full strength, and its production is worse than ever. It is obvious that politically anxious prevarication is exacerbated when there are a greater number of cooks standing around the cold soup. The denial of collective bargaining to the overwhelming majority of the American workforce is one of our democracy's great failings. While changing our labor law and those who administer it will not remedy all that ails us, it would be a step forward.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SPOKANE,
WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th birthday of the city of Spokane, Washington. Known as a "tough" town when Spokane was first developed, it quickly became known as the City of Wonder as tourists and sightseers flocked to the Inland Northwest to enjoy the beauty of its natural resources.

In their publication about Spokane, E.P. Charlton and Company wrote in 1909 that "Nature seems to have ordained that Spokane, the City Beautiful and Prosperous, should endure without a rival, and it may well be called the keystone in the arch of states

which span the western country between the Rockies and the Puget Sound."

Today, Spokane continues to be a beautiful and prosperous city. And when we look at the current and future state of Spokane, we see a city of innovation, success, and growth. Not only is Spokane surrounded by wonderful natural resources, but it is home to innovative small businesses that are changing the world of technology, educational institutions that are ensuring a strong future for our students, and a thriving health care industry that is revolutionizing the way we receive and deliver health care.

I commend the city for its efforts to grow the economy while still maintaining its historical roots. Through the revitalization of downtown and the restoration of key historical landmarks, Spokane has grown into a wonderful community that has an incredible amount to offer both residents and visitors. The restoration of historic landmarks such as the Davenport Hotel, Steam Plant Grill, Old City Hall and Fox Theater help keep the spirit of Spokane alive while serving as new centers for high quality accommodations, restaurants, and entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with the citizens of Spokane, Washington as we mark 125 years of success as a city. Eastern Washington has become a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family because of the incredible people that reside here. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of the citizens of Spokane, Washington as we commemorate our 125th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICHOLAS
MORABITO

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, with great pride and delight I rise today to honor a dedicated and respected community member, family man and veteran upon his 50th anniversary of exceptional service in the East Rochester School District.

Mr. Nicholas Morabito has led a life deeply connected and committed to his hometown of East Rochester, New York. Through his distinguished professional career and his spirit to make his community a better place, Mr. Morabito has left a lasting mark since graduating from East Rochester High School in 1943. Ten years later, Mr. Morabito would become the first graduate of East Rochester to be admitted to the New York bar, and in 1956 he would start his tenure as school attorney to the East Rochester School District, the position he still holds today. In this role for more than a half-century now, Mr. Morabito's priority and personal charge has been to serve educators and students, providing incomparable expertise and counsel to his Alma Mater.

That sense of dedication and service has defined Mr. Morabito his whole life, in East Rochester and beyond. In 1943, in the midst of World War II, Mr. Morabito joined the Navy after graduating from high school. Serving at Pearl Harbor and the Midway Islands through 1946, Mr. Morabito would return home a proud yet humble veteran who fulfilled his duty with honor and defended his country in the neediest of times.

After the war, Mr. Morabito began his distinguished legal career, which would be marked by his service in the New York State Assembly and Senate. From 1955 to 1960, Mr. Morabito served as counsel to the Military Affairs Committee in the state assembly, and from 1960 to 1963 served as counsel to the Labor and Industry Committee in the state senate. His civil service continued as Village Justice in East Rochester from 1960 to 1967, all the while fulfilling the position he so dutifully serves to this day as school attorney in East Rochester.

Mr. Morabito, through it all, has first and foremost been a devoted family man: husband to wife Patricia Ann for well over 50 years, father to 7 sons, and grandfather to 23 grandchildren. Born to parents Antonio and Angeline who emigrated from Italy, Mr. Morabito was instilled with the belief that family comes first. For Mr. Morabito, it does, and it always will.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his 50 years of tremendous service to the East Rochester School District and his courageous service to his country, and for his sense of community and his sense of family, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Mr. Nicholas Morabito.

RESOLUTION HONORING RUTH
BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this resolution today honoring the life of Ruth Brown. I join my colleagues Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CHARLES RANGEL in recognizing the accomplishments of rhythm and blues singer Ruth Brown and her efforts to reform copyright royalty payments for recording artists.

On a sad day for the music community and myself, Ruth Brown passed away on November 17, 2006. She was a rhythm and blues singer known as Miss Rhythm and her talent rocketed her to become one of Atlantic Records' first recording stars. Her voice made her a hit from the 1940s and onward with such songs as "So Long," "Teardrops from My Eyes," and "He Treats your Daughter Mean." Richard Harrington of the Washington Post said "there was a world of hurt in those songs and an insistence on some justice, a boldness of voice that Miss Rhythm reached for as Miss Righteous."

Ruth Brown's peers recognized her talent, as well. She won a 1989 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical in *Black and Blue*; a 1989 Grammy Award for her album "Blues on Broadway;" and 1993 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and a 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award from The Blues Foundation. Her autobiography, *Miss Rhythm*, received the Ralph Gleason Award for Music.

Aside from her own singing career, Ruth Brown became a tireless advocate for the rights of other rhythm and blues singers. She worked with Congress to advance the cause of copyright royalty reform so that rhythm and blues artists could receive the royalties they deserved from their music. She also helped found the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1988 to recognize, promote, and preserve

rhythm and blues music. The important work of the Foundation continues to this day.

The resolution we introduce today acknowledges these important contributions to American culture, recognizes Ruth Brown for her efforts to reform the royalty system, and expresses the House's deepest condolences to Ruth Brown's family and friends.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE COMMITMENT AND COMPASSION OF FAITH ELLIS FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE 26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements and commitment of Faith Ellis to the people of the 26th Congressional District of Texas. Faith has been a trusted employee and friend of mine for several years, and her expertise, humor and true love for north Texas and her local Fort Worth community will be sorely missed.

Faith was invaluable in her outreach role within Fort Worth. Her experiences growing up and assisting her father, Reby Cary, in the Texas State House provided her a unique training ground to understand the intersection and balance of community representation and the legislative process. It also provided her with a very early exposure to elected officials at all levels within the State that afforded her a professional comfort to associate with them in her outreach and representative capacity.

This experience, followed by her role as a loving mother, and her community efforts, make her an inspiring role model. She always brought the best out in people and gently guided us all to a better understanding of the world around us. Her compassion was evident to all, and she searched for practical solutions to any stumbling blocks that ever arose.

Combined, these life experiences allowed Faith Ellis the unique skill set needed to carry with credibility the commitment I have offered to southeast Fort Worth to actively represent their needs, and put forth the effort and leadership needed to identify and address their economic challenges at the federal level.

In a community harboring partisan wounds resulting from Texas, this was no small challenge. Faith faced the challenges with determination, professionalism, and hard work and there is no question that she will be impossible to replace. The community will likely never fully appreciate her impact, but she has clearly laid the foundation for the efforts of me and my staff. Her work, both personal and professional for her fellow man, will bring outstanding long-term benefits.

I only hope that Faith knows how much she is loved and how much she meant to all of us. The outreach model she set forth in southeast Fort Worth and indeed, throughout the 26th District, will certainly stand the test of time. Thank you Faith, for all you are and all you have done.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LINDA SMITH

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Smith for her tireless efforts as a fundraising specialist for Opportunity Village, a laudable organization that provides vocational training and advocacy for the disabled.

Linda has been a major force at Opportunity Village in planning and developing fundraising strategies, most notably the privately-funded, multi-million dollar capital campaigns to build the Opportunity Village campuses and training centers that have served thousands of disabled people. Linda oversees the Opportunity Village Resource Development Department, which generates millions of dollars annually for programs for people with profound disabilities through special events and annual giving programs she has largely pioneered.

Her tenacity and dedication have resulted in the involvement of vocalist Celine Dion in the Opportunity Village mission, culminating a performance at a benefit concert on the Las Vegas Strip in honor of Opportunity Village's 50th birthday. Linda has also initiated capital campaigns totaling more than \$48 million including the Leid Opportunity Campus on West Oakley Blvd., the Walters Family Campus in Henderson, the Culinary Training Center on the Opportunity Village main campus and the Southwest campus at Buffalo and Patrick.

For her efforts, Linda has received numerous accolades, including: being named the "Fundraising Executive of the Year" by the National Society of Fundraising Executives, receiving the Woman of Achievement Award from the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce, being named an honorary member of the Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs, and being named "Nevada Woman of the Year" in 1994.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Linda Smith. Her hard work has allowed Opportunity Village to grow exponentially and enrich countless lives. I applaud her efforts and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

HONORING DALE ROBBINS

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dale Robbins for his years of service as the Busti Town supervisor. Mr. Robbins served his community well during his tenure in office.

Public service is a difficult path to take. Any person with a dream may enter but only a few are able to reach the end. Mr. Robbins traveled that path with his head held high and a smile on his face throughout his tenure. I have no doubt that his kind demeanor left a lasting impression on the constituents of Busti.

Chautauqua County is blessed to have such strong and dedicated public servants with a desire to make this county the wonderful place that we all know it can be. Mr. Robbins is one of those people and that is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor him today.

MARINE PVT HEATH D. WARNER

HON. RALPH REGULA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, it is with both sorrow and pride that I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated Marine and citizen from my district in Ohio who gave his life defending our country while serving in Iraq.

Marine PVT Heath D. Warner was killed on Wednesday, November 22, 2006, while conducting combat operations against anti-Iraqi forces in Haqlaniyah, in Al Anbar province. He was 19 years old. With his entire life before him, Heath risked everything to fight for the values Americans hold close to our hearts, in a land halfway round the world.

Heath was a gunner on a Humvee when he, LCpl James Davenport, 20, of Danville, Indiana, and LCpl Joshua Alonzo, 21, of Dumas, Texas, were killed while conducting combat operations. The three were part of the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, and were based in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.

He was born on Friday, January 2, 1987, in Massillon, and was a lifetime resident of Canton. He was a 2005 graduate of McKinley High School. He had been a Boy Scout, taught break dancing at Living Fountain Dance Company, and was a member of the McKinley Young Republican Club. He enjoyed reading, martial arts, and was teaching himself Japanese and Arabic.

Even at the young age of 5, Heath dreamed of someday serving in the military. Following his high school graduation, Heath's dream of joining the Marines became a reality. His father, Scott, shared memories of Heath with the Canton Repository, recounting that his son was committed to the Marines, and had been intent on joining since childhood, even more so since September 11, 2001.

"He always had a desire to serve," he said. "I was from a family with the core values of 'God, family and country.' I instilled that in Heath. It was natural that he would join the service."

Heath was known for his deep faith, his dedication to his family, and his love of country. Today and always, Heath will be remembered by family members, friends, and fellow Ohioans as a true American hero, and we honor the sacrifice he made while dutifully serving his country.

It is my honor to enter the name of Heath D. Warner in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the U.S. House of Representatives for his service to this country and for his profound commitment to freedom, democracy, and peace. As I search for words to do justice in honoring Heath's sacrifice, I am reminded of the words of Jesus when He was comforting his disciples:

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in Me. In My Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am.

May God grant strength and peace to those who mourn, and may God be with all of you, as I know He is with Heath. Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his family.